

RADIO STAMPS

by

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Prepared for the
"DX Partyline" Program
of Radio Station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador

Program 25
August 1992

Hello again, and welcome to the August edition of **Radio Stamps**. This is program 25, and the subject today is radio stations on postage stamps.

I keep my collection of radio station stamps in alphabetical order, by country name. As I prepare each month's program, here on HCJB, I can sort and select the stamps I need to feature. In January, for example, I featured Radio Moscow from Russia. Over the past few months I've also included the BBC relay station on Ascension Island, amateur radio expeditions to the Dominican Republic, and All India Radio from India.

To complete the sequence today, with R for Russia, A for Ascension Island, D for the Dominican Republic, and I for India, I need a radio stamp from a country that starts with the letter O. I'd like very much to tell you that the BBC relay station in Oman has just been featured on a postage stamp but, unfortunately, that has not yet happened. There has not been a meter stamp or a postal cancellation either for the relay station in Oman. So today I'm skipping over the letter O to land alphabetically in Peru.

My collecting tips today from Peru are three postage stamps from 1938, 1946 and 1950 for Radio Nacional del Peru at San Miguel. Broadcasting in Peru was established in 1925 with station OXA at Lima. During "International Radio Week", held early in 1926, reports of good reception were received from Canada, the United States, Cuba and Mexico. The official network, Radio Nacional, has operated in many centres, but most radio stations in Peru are privately owned, commercial operations.

You can add three stamps to your collection that illustrate the Radio Nacional station at San Miguel. All three stamps are airmail issues, and all three have the same illustration. Featured on each stamp is an aerial view of the station showing the twin antenna towers and the pattern of the surrounding fields. Also shown is a curious pattern on the ground of radiating lines. Could this be the shadow pattern of the antennas themselves, or a groundwire system? If you have an idea, please let me know. I'll give you my mailing address at the end of this feature.

In a banner at the bottom of each stamp is listed the callsigns and frequencies of three stations: OAX4A on 854 kcs, OAX4T on 9562 kcs, and OAX4Z on 6082 kcs.

The first of these distinctive airmail stamps was issued on January 7, 1938. It's light mauve or purple in colour. The third issue in 1950, with the same design, is light brown in colour. The second issue in 1946 looks just like the other two stamps, except for a different inscription on the bottom margin. You'll need a magnifying glass to see it, but it's an easy test to tell them apart. The 1938 and 1950 issues are inscribed on the bottom margin with the words "Waterlow & Sons Limited". The 1946 issue is inscribed with the words "Columbian Bank Note Co.". The Scott catalogue numbers for these historical radio station stamps are C58, C75 and C93. Later in the year I'll have more collecting tips for you from Peru.

I'm sure you'll agree that the audio quality of the **Radio Stamps** program has greatly improved over the past three months. The program is now recorded at Lakeside Studios at Clayton Lake near Almonte. With me again today at the controls is Randall Prescott, better known for his award this year in Canada as record producer of the year. A special thanks again to Randall Prescott at Lakeside Studios for the great new sound of the **Radio Stamps** program.

The **Radio Stamps** program is sponsored this year by the North American Shortwave Association. The club is underwriting the mailing costs of this volunteer program on HCJB. The North American Shortwave Association has membership across Canada and the United States, and around the world. The club produces the monthly Journal, and a sample copy is available for only \$2. I also write a quarterly column called **Radio Stamps** that is featured in the Journal with illustrations and collecting tips. If you'd like to write to the club, here's the address: North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, spelled L-e-v-i-t-t-o-w-n, in Pennsylvania, or PA for short. The zip code in the United States is 19507. The address again is the North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, PA, 19507, U.S.A.

That's all for today. As promised, here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is KOA 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, KOA 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.